



STATE OF MAINE
Public Utilities Commission
242 State Street
18 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333.0018

Received & Inspected

SEP 29 2009

FCC Mail Room

SHARON M. REISHUS
CHAIRMAN

VENDEAN V. VAFIADES
JACK CASHMAN
COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2009

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 12th Street, SW
Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher
Vice President of High Cost and Low
Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L. Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the requirements of
47 C.F.R. § 54.314, for the year 2009

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

On May 10, 2001, the FCC adopted a modified mechanism to provide high-cost support to rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, 14th Report and Order and 21st Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (rel. May 10, 2001) (Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify that the rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order and 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to our rural companies in Maine will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). All federal high-cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended.

A list of rural LECs in Maine to which this certification applies is attached to this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Joel Shifman at joel.shifman@maine.gov or at (207)287-1381.

Sincerely,

Karen Geraghty
Administrative Director

No. of Copies rec'd _____
LMA B C D E

1. China Telephone Company
2. Cobbosseecontee Telephone & Telegraph Company
3. Community Service Telephone Company
4. Hampden Telephone Company
5. Hartland St. Albans Telephone Company
6. The Island Telephone Company
7. Lincolnville Networks, Inc.¹
8. Maine Telephone Company
9. Mid-Maine Telecom
10. Northland Telephone Company
11. Oxford Telephone Company
12. Oxford West Telephone Company
13. Pine Tree Telephone & Telegraph Company
14. Saco River Telegraph & Telephone Company
15. Sidney Telephone Company
16. Somerset Telephone Company
17. Standish Telephone Company
18. Tidewater Telecom, Inc.
19. Union River Telephone Company
20. Unitel, Inc.
21. Warren Telephone Company
22. West Penobscot Telephone Company

¹ Lincolnville Networks, Inc. was designated by the Maine Public Utilities Commission as an ETC, and replaces Lincolnville Telephone Company as the ILEC in the Lincolnville service area. See *Lincolnville Telephone Company, Tidewater Telecom, Inc. & Lincolnville Networks, Inc., Application for Approvals Related to Merger of Lincolnville Telephone Company and Related Transactions*, Docket No. 2008-232, Order Approving Stipulation (August 29, 2008), attached hereto.



STATE OF MAINE
Public Utilities Commission
242 State Street
18 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333.0018

Received & Inspected

SEP 29 2009

FCC Mail Room

SHARON M. REISHUS
CHAIRMAN

VENDEAN V. VAFIADES
JACK CASHMAN
COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2009

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 12th Street, SW
Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher
Vice President of High Cost and Low
Income Division
Universal Service Administration
2000 L. Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R.
§§ 54.313 and 54.316, for the year 2009

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

On November 2, 1999, the FCC adopted a mechanism to provide high-cost support to non-rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Ninth Report and Order and 18th Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 99-306), released November 2, 1999) (Non-Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify that the non-rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order and 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to the non-rural company, Northern New England Telephone Operations, Inc.-ME, will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). To the best of our knowledge, all federal high-cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.316, we certify that rates in the rural areas of our non-rural company are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationally because they are below the nationwide urban rate benchmark safe harbor.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Joel Shifman at joel.shifman@maine.gov or at (207)287-1381.

Sincerely,

Karen Geraghty
Administrative Director

